DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

September 15, 1982

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 82-93

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Foster Care Information System Population Definition

REFERENCE: This letter supersedes instructions provided in ACIN I-79-82 Dated July 7, 1982, Item II, Children Receiving RRP Services and/or Funds.

In April, 1981 the Department of Social Services formally requested a policy interpretation from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding which children should be included in the foster care population. Eighteen months later their interpretation was received in the form of a nationally released Policy Interpretation Question (PIQ), dated July 12, 1982. The instructions in the PIQ alter the Foster Care Information System (FCIS) population definition by requiring states to collect data on children served by either the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) or the Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program (CHEP). Consequently, county welfare departments (CWDs) must now be required to report to the FCIS by October 1, 1982, all children who have been served by the RRP or the CHEP within the past twelve months.
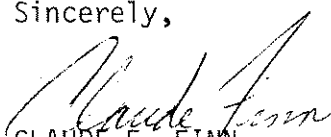
As a result of the federal instruction, the FCIS population definition is now revised to include all refugee/entrant unaccompanied minors in out of home care placement receiving Refugee Cash Assistance-Foster Care (RCA-FC) or Entrant Cash Assistance-Foster Care (ECA-FC) aid payments and/or Out-of-Home Care for Children (OHC-C) services funded by RCA or ECA. Additionally, several data element instructions for the Foster Child's Data Record (SOC 158) are modified to accommodate the inclusion of these children in the FCIS. Attached is the list of affected data elements and the expanded instructions for each item. Formal revisions to the FCIS Reporting Instructions Manual will be distributed to all local agencies at a later date.

The Department is aware that CWDs are already required to complete and submit similar information on refugee/entrant unaccompanied minors using Report Form CA 900. This data is in large part duplicative of the FCIS data. In an effort to eliminate this duplication, the Department is working with the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement to determine if the FCIS can satisfy the requirements of the Refugee Act of 1980 (PL 96-212) regarding location and

status reports for unaccompanied minors. However, in the interim, counties must continue to submit Report Form CA 900 until further notice.

We recognize that this new reporting requirement will result in processing complications at both the State and local levels. The Department regrets the short notice given to counties to report these cases, yet California must comply with the DHHS interpretation. Every effort will be made to assist CWDs in reporting to the FCIS those children served by the RRP or CHEP. If you need technical assistance, please contact the Statistical Services Branch at (916) 322-5462.

Sincerely,

CLAUDE E. FINN
Deputy Director

Attachment

cc: Paul Allen, President, CWDA

Revisions to Item Instructions for
FCIS Input Forms Completion

The following are additions or revisions to the item instructions for completion of the Foster Child's Data Record, SOC 158/SOC 158A and the Foster Child's Data Record Supplemental Input, SOC 158B.

Item	Name	Definitions and Instructions
B1	Case Number/Unique I.D.	Enter the child's 14 digit county case number. For refugee cases, the 2 digit aid codes should be: 01 – Refugee Cash Assistance for Unaccompanied Refugee Children from Cambodia, Laos, or Viet Nam. 07 – Refugee Cash Assistance for OTHER Refugee Unaccompanied minors. 08 – Entrant Cash Assistance for Cuban-Haitian Entrant Unaccompanied minors.
D4	Reason for Removal from Home	For refugee children who are not covered under the specified definitions in the manual, use: Code 99 – Unaccom Minor (unaccompanied minor)- include refugee children who entered the United States unaccompanied by a caretaker.
L1-4	AFDC-FC Payment Items	No payment information should be reported for aid codes 01, 07, 08.